



The GreenThumb Print

GreenThumb News and Topics of Interest to Community Gardeners in New York City



April 2005 THE BULLETIN OF GREENTHUMB - A PROGRAM OF THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

Garden Registration Information for the Season

The time has come again to register your community garden. The settlement requires that community garden groups re-register and sign new licenses with GreenThumb every two years. In 2003 your cooperation helped us to register almost 400 groups. Beginning in June of this year, GreenThumb will embark upon a new registration effort. Please see pg#7 for details on dates and times. Only registered garden groups in good standing (not in violation) are eligible to register and to receive GreenThumb services during the season. This includes all workshops and giveaways of plant materials, lumber, soil and tools. We hope many more groups will take advantage of registration this year.

TPL and NYRP Gardens

Gardens on TPL and NYRP property may register for GreenThumb through their respective land trust administrators. GreenThumb will work with both land trusts to distribute and collect all relevant registration materials for garden groups.

School Gardens

All School (EIG program) Gardens that have worked with GreenThumb in the last five years will receive notification about registration via mail this summer. Upon registration school gardens will be eligible for a full range of GreenThumb services. We encourage school gardens to take advantage of opportunities to network with area community gardens at registration sessions and subsequent participation in our enriched program of events and workshops.

HPD Gardens

This summer, GreenThumb will send new licenses to the primary contacts of community garden groups that steward HPD properties. You are expected to sign the license and send it back to GreenThumb. We will forward your licenses to HPD for officials to sign and return to garden contacts. Signing your license will re-register you with GreenThumb for the season. Registration also guarantees you the protections detailed in the community garden settlement. GreenThumb may not be able to offer services to HPD garden groups who do not return their licenses.

Parks Gardens

Beginning in June, contacts from garden groups stewarding Parks Department lots will receive notification to attend registration sessions. Sessions will be conveniently located at central locations throughout the boroughs and both daytime and evening sessions will be available. Times and locations are published in this issue of the Newsletter (pg#7) as well as in the Summer Programming Guide. We promise to make registration both informative and enjoyable. Sessions will cover the full span of GreenThumb services, programs, and requirements. Recent changes at GreenThumb will be highlighted and explained for everyone. In addition, refreshments and other goodies will be available for participants. We encourage all gardeners to attend.

Gardens in Violation

Please note that garden groups in violation will not be eligible to register this summer. As GreenThumb staff continues to visit sites and review last year's activities, we will work with garden groups to resolve violations before registration. Violations to GreenThumb rules and regulations include: keeping animals (except in accordance with Department of Health standards), poor maintenance and storage of non-garden related items, consumption of illegal substances, alcohol use, neglecting open hours, prohibiting public access, illegal structures, low membership (under 10), and lack of public programming events.

GreenThumb may be able to assist you in addressing these problems in a variety of ways. For example, we can coordinate assistance with clean up projects that can't be handled by hand (including the removal of animals, structures, cars, and appliances). We may also be able to help garden groups improve problems like low membership and events by assisting with publicity, sharing tips for stimulating activity, and offering some funding and attractions for events. Please contact us if your group is in need of such assistance.

GreenThumb has a lot in store for registered gardens this season. As always there are our annual events, the GrowTogether, Summer Solstice and Harvest Fair. However with the advent of new staff we are able to offer increased assistance with horticulture and site design as well as a range of new workshops and networking opportunities to further develop garden groups. We appreciate your efforts and hope that all will participate and allow us to help you continue to serve and improve our communities.

See Page #7 for details on dates, times and locations for registration 2005-2007

All of Our GreenThumb Gardeners are Heros!



GreenThumb GrowTogether 2005

Photos by Spencer Tucker

GreenThumb will never stop singing the praises of all the many gardeners across the five boroughs of New York City committed to their green spaces. Weather you have spent one hour planting a flower, or dedicated hundreds of hours out in the elements tending to your garden, we are all happier and

healthier because of your dedication. We want to make sure you know how much GreenThumb appreciates the time and energy you volunteer to make your garden bloom, feed your community and host public programs.

This year GreenThumb celebrates all our community gardeners with the

theme, “Sprout It Out!” encouraging you to keep up the great work. Green gardens are essential to the city, and your work is essential to a successfully run program. At this years GrowTogether, GreenThumb’s yearly event to kick off the growing season, we took a moment to highlight the work of sixteen gardeners whose extraordinary commitment has inspired all of us in our effort to serve you. Our presenter was Arthor Sheppard, whose exemplary record speaks for itself. He has over 20 years in the NYC greening community, and has worked with the Cornell Corp. Extension, the Green Guerrillas, the Horticultural Society and others.



Grover Fuller

Davidson Ave. Community Garden

- ◆ Longtime GreenThumb gardener
- ◆ Displays horticultural excellence
- ◆ Enthusiastic supporter of community garden events.
- ◆ Volunteered to be a co-facilitator and prepared materials for our seed workshop in the BX.

Pricilla Harris

Jackson Forest Community Garden

- ◆ Works in the sibling division at ACS. Pioneered and secured funding for a new partnership program where children being served by ACS have visits with their natural families in community gardens.
- ◆ Assists GreenThumb by taking pictures at our seasonal events for almost two years now.
- ◆ GreenThumb GrowTogether volunteer

Jerry Mojica

Victory and Wishing Well Garden

- ◆ Always looking to gain more knowledge about horticulture and anxious to share knowledge with others.
- ◆ Shown great commitment to developing garden membership and programming by making connections between garden groups and other community institutions like schools, and housing developments.
- ◆ So committed, in fact, that he organized a group to begin brand new garden this past year.



Marty Rogers

Neighborhood Advisory Committee

- ◆ A leader in preservation efforts during the settlement.
- ◆ Helped to organize Melrose gardens and others that led to preservation beyond original parameters laid out in the settlement.
- ◆ Helped to relocate many Bronx gardens.
- ◆ Works with elected officials to leverage funds for community gardens in the BX.
- ◆ Supports GT by hosting events for us like seed starting workshops in the BX.



Lori Harris & Jacqueline Harris

William A. Harris Com, Garden

- ◆ Organize numerous community events for area residents & neighborhood children (annual Halloween Haunted House, annual Holiday Tree Lightning Ceremony).
- ◆ Tireless advocates for the cause of community gardens to local politicians.
- ◆ Members of H.U.G. (Harlem United Gardens) Coalition.
- ◆ GrowTogether workshop leaders.
- ◆ Host a daycare program in their garden.



Ray Figueroa

T.R.U.C.E. youth garden

- ◆ Enthusiastic supporter of community gardens - attends community board meetings, comes to garden events, attends H.U.G. (Harlem United Gardens) coalition events, advocates for gardens.
- ◆ Brought youth to help lead workshops at ACGA in Toronto, and in a past GrowTogether conference, and this year.
- ◆ Passionate and skilled in navigating political and municipal web to advocate for the preservation of TRUCE.
- ◆ Helped host the GreenThumb veggie start giveaway in 2004.



Tommy Walker, Danny Pennington & Walter Jefferson

Euclid Pine Gardeners

- ◆ Provides assistance to GT at all give-aways eg unloaded plants at 6AM, gave salt away in the rain & cooking-out for events.
- ◆ Distribute GreenThumb materials to neighboring East New York Community Gardens
- ◆ Host community events, the most famous of which is their awesome Fish-Fry where they serves the community.



Annie Chadwick & Adam Honigman

Clinton Community Garden

- ◆ Annie- Met with Bloomberg and CPF (City Parks Foundation) to leverage funds for further services community gardens through GT.
- ◆ Planning a mentoring project with master and beginner gardeners throughout the city.
- ◆ Adam- always educating and updating the community about issues, events, etc. by disseminating info via email
- ◆ Working diligent on preservation and relocation in the Bronx.



Jon Crow

EK Bears Pacific Street

- ◆ A group of gardens sharing programs and joint events- great model!
- ◆ Leader in BK-Queens Land Trust.
- ◆ Active in Park Slope neighborhood issues. Works with all gardens in the area.
- ◆ Donates graphic design ability for garden causes.
- ◆ Founding member of BANG (Brooklyn Association of Neighborhood Gardens).
- ◆ Has hosted GT events- Salt and plant giveaway.



Darlene Mealy

A Better Community Garden

- ◆ Darlene has revitalized a formerly troubled garden group.
- ◆ Cultivates teen involvement through relationships with local basketball teams.
- ◆ Hosts community programming including an extensive inter-generational event with entertainment and activities.
- ◆ Raises funds for garden activities and is applying for non-profit status to garner even more support for garden activities.
- ◆ Active in a wide range of civic/community activities.

Greg Ingrahm

Contact for Gregory's Garden and PS 149 Artsy Bloom

- ◆ Skilled horticulturalist who routinely increases knowledge by attending classes at BBG.
- ◆ Assisted in the development and maintenance of The Rooftop Garden at Brownsville Recreation Center.
- ◆ Assists GreenThumb in many events including: Harvest Fair, Summer Solstice, Tool Giveaway, and the Plant Give-away.
- ◆ Offers maintenance and horticultural assistance to all East New York gardens.

Emmanuel Kolajo

Hosts annual events for GT and Council on the Environment

- ◆ Leads a large, active membership.
- ◆ Established partnerships with other neighborhood institutions like Magnolia Tree and the nearby Herbert Von King Recreation Center.
- ◆ Cultivates relationships with other parts of the Parks Department for support and assistance.
- ◆ Mr. Kolajo even sleeps in the garden to supervise plants for the GreenThumb Plant give-away in Brooklyn set-up.

Staff Updates:



We are pleased to announce the arrival of our new Deputy Director for Operations, Chris Syrett. Prior to joining the GreenThumb staff in December, Chris worked for the NYC Parks on a variety of ecological restoration projects throughout the five boroughs. As a Project Manager for the Parks' Natural Resources Group, he led the State sponsored Clean Air/Clean Water Bond restoration of natural areas in Northern Manhattan. He was also a Forest Manager in central Queens and Natural Areas Manager for two of the city's largest parks, Van Cortlandt and Pelham Bay Parks in the Bronx. When he's not too busy with his son Marco, he is slowly pursuing a degree in Landscape Architecture at CCNY.

Other Greening Groups

Workshops, Events and Grants

Garden Workshops

Floyd Bennet Garden Association - Offers educational workshops to the public at Floyd Bennett Field. FBGA is a not-for-profit volunteer membership organization in partnership with the National Park Service. For more information call (718) 338-4255.

**Organic Gardening: Good Bug/ Bad Bug
Floyd Bennett Field.**

**Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday, May 14th at 2pm**

Learn how to attract the beneficial insects to your garden while naturally discouraging the harmful bugs.

Bulbs in Your Garden

Floyd Bennett Field.

**Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday, May 21th at 2pm**

Learn all you need to know to plant reliable bulbs. Hardy spring bulbs and tender summer bulbs will be discussed.

Grant Opportunity

Patagonia Environmental Grants Program

Contact: (917) 441-0011 for Columbus Avenue Store, or (212) 343-1776 for Wooster Street Store.

Deadline: April 30 and August 31

How much: \$3,000 to \$8,000

Patagonia provides funding for environmental work, with a preference for organizations that identify and work on the root causes of problems and approach issues with a commitment to long-term change. Supports work that is action-oriented; builds public involvement and support; is strategic; focuses on root causes; and accomplishes specific goals and objectives. The company supports small, grassroots activist organizations with direct-action agendas.

Just Food City Markets

Just Food's City Farms Program is working with four NYC community garden groups to create and run farm stands or City Markets, and to partner with regional farmers to provide more quality produce to NYC neighborhoods. Community gardens in the Bronx and Brooklyn are partnering with regional farmers to provide more fresh fruits and vegetables to NYC neighborhoods. The benefit for gardeners is two-fold-urban farm stands increase your presence in the community while generating income for the garden. This year, we are collaborating with GreenThumb to hold healthy cooking demonstrations at the markets. Shop for local, quality food and get some fresh cooking tips too!



Market Schedules & Locations:

La Familia Verde Market - E. Tremont and Arthur Ave.

Tuesdays 8am-2pm E.Tremont Ave/Crotona, Bronx ❖ Special event! Healthy Cooking Demonstration
July 19, 2005 11:30-1:30 pm

Taqwa Farmers Market - 164th Street and Ogden Ave.

Saturdays 9am-4pm Highbridge, Bronx (near Yankee Stadium) ❖ Special event! Healthy Cooking Demonstration
July 30, 2005 11:30-1:30 pm

The Market at Bissel Gardens - South of 241st St. on Baychester Ave.

Saturdays 9am-1pm Wakefield, Bronx

Wyckoff Farmhouse Market - Clarendon Ave. and Ralph Ave.

Sundays 10am-2pm East Flatbush, Brooklyn ❖ Special event! Healthy Cooking Demonstration
July 24, 2005 2:00 pm



For more information on City Markets or any of Just Food's workshops, call Kathleen at 212.645.9880 x13

FAQs Frequently Asked Questions FAQs

In the 2005 gardening season, GreenThumb aims to meet gardeners' needs and concerns in a variety of new ways. This is however, a challenging task for a staff of 13 with over 15,000 gardeners. This section of the ThumbPrint is designed to help you answer some of those little questions that gardeners develop at the beginning of each season. Pay attention, because this could save you a round or two of phone tag. The following are typical questions posed by gardeners and other callers to the GreenThumb office:

How can I get basic supplies for my garden if there are not Outreach Coordinators assigned to each borough?

GreenThumb will continue to supply an extensive amount of both basic and specialty gardening supplies. In order to better serve community gardens we have reorganized our program and will distribute all supplies through citywide workshops. Please see the Quarterly Program Guides to see when specific supplies will be distributed. For especially large supplies we will still deliver them to individual gardens. But, only after a garden has attended a workshop and requested the specific supply. This new system will streamline material distribution and make the process easily accessible and transparent to all garden groups. These workshops will also be great opportunities for community garden groups to network with each other and meet experts.

How can my garden group receive a port-a-san and PathMark vouchers from GreenThumb this season?

Gardeners should rest assured that GreenThumb will distribute vouchers and port-a-sans to support and stimulate programming and events at gardens this year. Vouchers will be available through workshops scheduled on July 21 and August 23. By attending either of these workshops garden groups qualify for \$50 Pathmark vouchers for events in the summer and fall. Garden groups that would like the use of a Port-a-San this season will be given the opportunity to apply for one in June. GreenThumb will send contacts an application asking them to detail their groups' membership numbers and programming activities. Groups with the highest levels of public programming may be eligible for port-a-sans during the second half of the gardening season

What kind of support can I expect from GreenThumb in publicizing my garden's events this season?

We are working hard to get a new system in place that will happily accommodate all 450 registered gardens, and make sure that our services are available to all gardeners. We would love to be able to publicize all the events happening in gardens but operationally, our goal is to publicize at least one event in every garden. With this clear goal in mind, we will be better able to serve the gardening community.

The events listing form will remain the same. All events submitted will be posted on the website if submitted 3 weeks in advance. We will call to confirm receipt of the form. There will be a limit of one postcard/flyer design and mailing per garden for the season, so save your postcard/flyer for your best event!

Also we are making a computer available in the office with Quark, the design layout program, so that savvy gardeners who need more than one card designed can still have the opportunity to get their cards made and sent out.

The events calendar will be produced according to the number of events submitted, approximately one every 2 months. All the events submitted in time will be listed there as well. Remember, garden groups must report at least one public event per year, so don't forget to send in those forms!

What is going on with the GreenThumb website?

We are proud to announce that the GreenThumb website is up and running once again. We apologize for the interruption you experienced in this important service over the past few months. Over this season, we will be making several updates to our website. Your events will be listed on the GreenThumb website as well as the parks website, and gardeners will be able to search by borough for their events. As always, the GreenThumb website will continue to feature our monthly events calendar highlighting events at community gardens around the City.

What should I do if someone dumps large debris on my garden?

Call GreenThumb, we can probably help. GreenThumb works with the Department of Sanitation's lot cleaning division to address large amounts of debris in gardens located in City owned lots. But remember, we don't know it's there unless you tell us. It's your responsibility to report the problem and ask for help in order to keep out of violation and protect your communities from such offenses.

What should I do if my garden group needs to dispose of debris collected during a clean-up day?

Call GreenThumb at least one week in advance if your group is going to need a bulk pick-up, particularly if you have collected a large amount of mixed debris including metal and wood. We will work with the Department of Sanitation's lot cleaning division to arrange for a dumpster or pick-up on the day of your event. For all other days you should reach out to the Department of Sanitation directly. Sanitation pick-up trucks are supposed to make regular garbage pick-ups at GreenThumb gardens upon request. Contact information for District Sanitation depots can be found in the front (back?) of the yellow pages. Gardeners should visit district depots and acquaint themselves with area workers and supervisors. Once a relationship is developed gardeners should have no trouble receiving pick-ups when necessary. Remember to bag and separate all debris before DOS pick-ups.

What should I do if a contractor tries to set up shop in part of my garden?

Call GreenThumb and 311 immediately. Address the contractor and explain that the City owns the garden lot(s) and get the contractor's contact info (if possible) for us to follow-up. Contractors without permits from the owning agency (Parks or HPD) have no right to use garden lots when working on neighboring projects. The Parks Department has created strict new policies designed to protect gardeners from unwanted and unnecessary disruption. The Agency is currently taking action against contractors guilty of destroying garden lots over the past two years, please help us to keep this from happening in the future.

How can I get materials that are not connected to workshops featured in the GreenThumb Program Calendar 2005?

How can I get materials that are not connected to workshops featured in the Program Guide?

All materials available through the Quarterly Program Guides should be acquired through the scheduled citywide workshops. If after reviewing the Program Guide there is a material not listed you may call Chris Syrett, Deputy Director, Operations & Maintenance, (212-788-8060) to inquire if it is available. New or relocating groups in need of large amounts of materials may arrange with Chris to pick up items at the LRP / GT compound in Queens. If you are in need of special services, your group may need to coordinate your own transportation so plan in advance.

How do I go about getting a permit for using the fire hydrant as a water source this season?

The system is the same as last year. GreenThumb has mailed out a hydrant packet that includes: instructions on obtaining a permit, permit applications, and locations of borough DEP offices. Garden contacts should complete the permit application and bring it to his /her borough office. There you will receive a permit for the season. Once you have the permit, contact Nichelle at GreenThumb (212.788.8070) to request that your hydrant be uncapped. You should have access to water in about a week after completing this process.

How can school groups get GreenThumb support for new projects?

This season, GreenThumb will support the development of school gardening programs with a strong community component. These include things like school projects in community gardens, and school projects sponsored by parent or community groups. School groups interested in exploring such partnerships should contact GreenThumb. We may even be able to assist you in identifying a neighboring community gardens to work with.

What should I do if my garden group decides to build a gazebo or casita?

All construction projects must be approved and supervised by GreenThumb's Deputy Director for Operations, Chris Syrett. If you need assistance, he will also be available to help your garden develop safe, environmentally sound and aesthetically pleasing designs for your garden structure.

GreenThumb Registration

◆◆ Gardens get registered for 2005 - 2007 ◆◆
All parks gardens must attend any one of the following sessions in order to register. See pg #1 for more registration information - who, what and why.

June 7TH 12noon-2:30pm BRONX

at St. James Senior Center
192nd St. at Jerome Ave.

Subway: #4 to Fordham Rd. or Kingsbridge. Walk to 192nd St. and Jerome Ave; D to Fordham Rd. walk to 188th St. make a right and walk straight down to enter park.
Bus: Bx32 to 192nd St. to the park.

June 7TH 6pm-8:30pm BRONX

at St. Mary's Recreation Center
St. Ann's Ave. at E 145 St.

Subway: #2, #5 to 149th St. and 3rd Ave. Walk to 145th St. and St. Ann's. Bus: Bx2, Bx15, Bx55, Bx21, Bx19, Bx4 to 145th St.

June 14TH 12noon-2:30pm MANHATTAN

at The Dana Discovery Center
NE corner of Central Park on Harlem Meer.

Subway: #2, #3 train to 110th and Lexington Ave.

June 14TH 6pm-8:30pm MANHATTAN

at Carmine Recreation Center
Clarkson Street at 7th Ave. South.

Subways: A, B, C, D, F to W 4th. St. or #1, #9 to W 4th St.

June 21ST 12noon-2:30pm BROOKLYN

at Brownsville Recreation Center
1555 Linden Blvd at Mother Gaston.

Subways: L to New Lots. Bus: B15, B35, B83, B60

June 21ST 6pm-8:30pm BROOKLYN

at Brooklyn Botanical Garden
1000 Washington Ave.

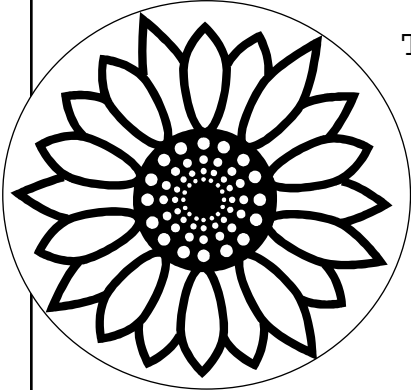
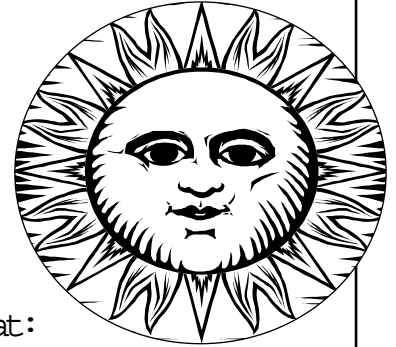
Subway: B, Q to Prospect Park; or #2, #3 to Eastern Pkwy.
Bus: B41, B43, B48 and B71. Enter on the Washington Ave.

2005 Summer Solstice Celebration

THE FESTIVAL MARKING THE ARRIVAL OF SUMMER! FINALLY!

SAVE THE DATE!!

**SATURDAY,
June 18th, 12pm-4pm**



The Summer Solstice Celebration will be held at:

Clinton Community Garden

436 West 48th Street, b/w 9th and 10th Aves.

Directions: C, E trains to West 50th Street.

Walk 2 blocks south to 48th Street
and 1 1/2 blocks west to the garden.

*Live Music!
Great FREE Food!
Herb Give-away!
Activities for Kids!*



City of New York
Parks & Recreation
Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Adrian Benepe, Commissioner



GreenThumb
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The GreenThumb Print is a publication of GreenThumb, a program of the City of New York/Parks & Recreation Department. Since 1978, GreenThumb has been providing technical assistance to community gardens in New York City. GreenThumb currently serves over 650 community garden groups thanks to funding from Community Development Block Grants. Community gardens are a community resource that contribute to a cleaner, healthier, and safer city.